

## ***Belmont Disability Access Commission*** **Meeting Minutes: 13 May 2004**

**Present: Celeste Andrade, Ray Glazier, Janet Macdonald, Francis Williams** (Associate). (A quorum was present.)  
**Absent: Kathy Allen, Laurie Graham, Art Heron** (Associate) **William Rodi** (Associate), **Carole Williams**.

The meeting was called to order in the Staff Room of the Belmont Memorial Library (as posted) at 7:20 PM.

Minutes from the last Commission Meeting on March 11, 2004 were read and amended. Janet Macdonald made a motion to approve the minutes; Fran Williams seconded the motion. They were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Disability Assistance Program Report: Celeste Andrade will call the Coordinator, Laurie Graham (who was not present), to see if the Disability Assistance Program phone line is being checked and to see if she has any ideas for Disability Awareness Month (October). One information request involving transportation had been addressed by Janet Macdonald and Ray Glazier; it turned out to have multiple dimensions, including mental health concerns. Janet Macdonald offered to provide a list for mental health referrals as those types of calls come in.

Town Hall Complex Building Committee update: Ray Glazier reported that the Town Hall Annex and the School Administration Building are supposed to open in the late fall, possibly December. The project has involved some further work in the Town Hall itself: water proofing the basement wall on the Pleasant Street side, air conditioning the auditorium, and finishing off the top floor.

Support for the Library Planning Process: Ray Glazier represented the Disability Access Commission at the Selectmen's March 10 '04 meeting. The Selectmen agreed to allow the Library Board of Trustees to get on a list for state funding by filing a letter of intent this October. At present there is no decision as to whether the Library project will be a major renovation or new construction. A Site Committee will be appointed to consider the options for location in case new construction is to be undertaken.

Involvement in Senior Center Building Committee: Fran Williams volunteered to review architectural plans. No Commission member present was able to commit to representing the BDAC on the Senior Center Building Committee.

Input to O'Neill Properties 40B application regarding the Uplands: Fran Williams made a motion that Ray Glazier represent the Disability Access Commission in this matter, and Janet Macdonald seconded it. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Membership issues / recruitment: All present will think about possible candidates.

Plans for Disability Awareness Month (October): Many suggestions were made, including securing videos for distribution to schools, putting up posters in public areas, and having speakers or videos at town meetings or on public television.

Disability Speaker Registry: Ray Glazier volunteered to speak in schools; Fran Williams suggested we could secure speakers from the Mass. Office on Disability, Boston.

BDAC mission statement: “The Belmont Disability Access Commission is dedicated to protecting the rights of all Belmont citizens, of all ages and with the full range of all abilities and disabilities (specifically including “hidden disabilities”), fully to access Town services and programs, to educating Town officials and the general citizenry about disability issues, to promoting the full inclusion of all persons with diverse disabilities in community life, and to the promotion of their general welfare.” was reviewed again. It had been discussed by the Commission at its previous meeting in March, but was officially adopted by a unanimous voice vote at this meeting.

Fran Williams made a motion that we meet at least once over the summer and Celeste Andrade seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous voice vote. The purpose of the summer meeting will be to review disability awareness/sensitivity videos for possible purchase to add to the BDAC audio-visual lending library. Teachers and community groups will be able to borrow these videos. Efforts will be initiated in September to promote October as Disability Awareness through the schools’ social studies program.

The next meeting date was set for Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM. It will be held in the Staff Room of the Belmont Memorial Library on Concord Avenue.

Celeste Andrade made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 PM; Janet Macdonald seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Recorded as understood and respectfully submitted, Celeste M. Andrade, Secretary.